

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9-15, 18 and 25-86 without prejudice to the inclusion of the subject matter contained therein in any later filed continuation and/or divisional application(s).

Please amend claims 22 and 23 as follows:

1. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF)-Related Activation Induced Cytokine (TRANCE) polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said TRANCE polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence as set forth in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2).

2. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a TRANCE polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said isolated nucleic acid molecule consists of the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 3-8. (Canceled)

Claims 9-15 (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 operatively associated with a promoter.

17. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2 operatively associated with a promoter.

Claim 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claims 16 or 17, wherein said promoter is selected from the group consisting of the immediate early promoters of hCMV, early promoters of SV40, early promoters of adenovirus, early promoters of vaccinia, early promoters of polyoma, late promoters of SV40, late promoters of adenovirus, late promoters of vaccinia, late promoters of polyoma, the lac the trp system, the TAC system, the TRC system,

the major operator and promoter regions of phage lambda, control regions of fd coat protein, 3-phosphoglycerate kinase promoter, acid phosphatase promoter, promoters of yeast .alpha. mating factor.

20. (Previously presented) A unicellular host transformed with an expression vector of claims 16 or 17.

21. (Previously presented) The unicellular host according to claim 20, wherein said host comprises E. coli, Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Streptomyces, yeast, CHO, R1.1, B-W, L-M, COS1, COS7, BSC1, BSC40, BMT10 or Sf9 cells.

22. (Currently amended) An isolated mammalian cell comprising a DNA sequence which encodes a TRANCE polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said TRANCE polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence as set forth in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), and further wherein said mammalian cell is modified in vitro to permit expression of TRANCE by inserting a promoter in functional proximity to the TRANCE polypeptide encoding sequence.

23. (Currently amended) The isolated mammalian cell of claim 22, wherein the promoter is a TRANCE polypeptide promoter.

24. (Previously presented) A method of producing an isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2) comprising the steps of :

a) culturing a unicellular host transformed with an expression vector comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF)-Related Activation Induced Cytokine (TRANCE) polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said TRANCE polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence as set forth in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2) under conditions that provide for expression of said isolated polypeptide; and

b) recovering said isolated polypeptide from said host, the culture, or both.

Claims 25-86. (Canceled)